

No. 1498

14p

Commando

WAR STORIES IN PICTURES

55c



WAY OF HONOUR



Stars of Soccer—Les Sealey

WAY OF Honour

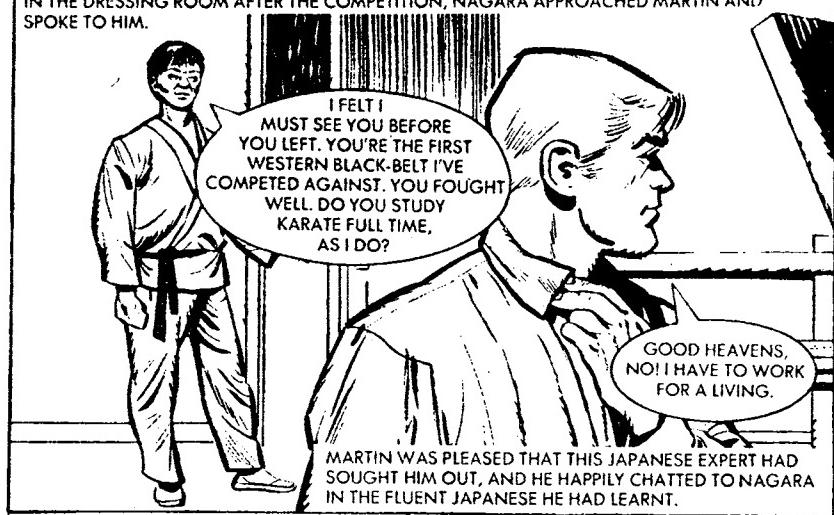
A WINNING BLOW SIGNALLED THE END TO WHAT HAD BEEN A HARD-FOUGHT KARATE CONTEST. THE JAPANESE AUDIENCE EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION TO A WORTHY WINNER AND GALLANT LOSER . . . AND WHAT HAD MADE IT ALL THE MORE ENTHRALLING WAS THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY'D SEEN A MAN FROM THE WEST TACKLE ONE OF THEIR OWN RACE IN SUCH A FIGHT.

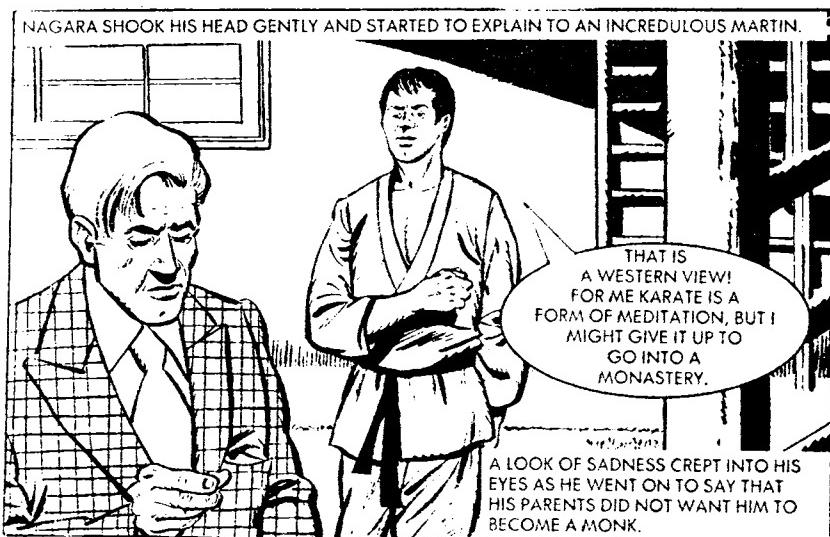
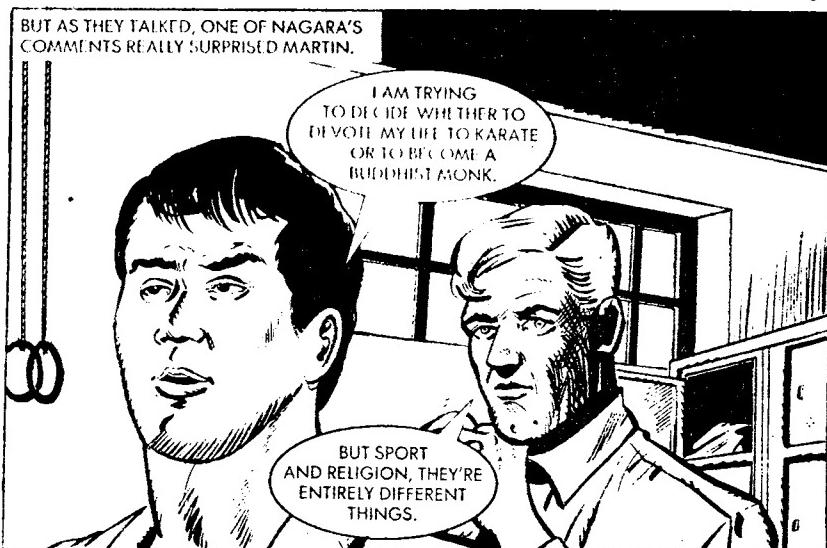


AS MARTIN HAWKINS AND HIS OPPONENT YOSHIO NAGARA BOWED TO EACH OTHER AT THE END OF THE BOUT, MARTIN KNEW HE HAD LOVED TO THE BETTER MAN.



IN THE DRESSING ROOM AFTER THE COMPETITION, NAGARA APPROACHED MARTIN AND SPOKE TO HIM.

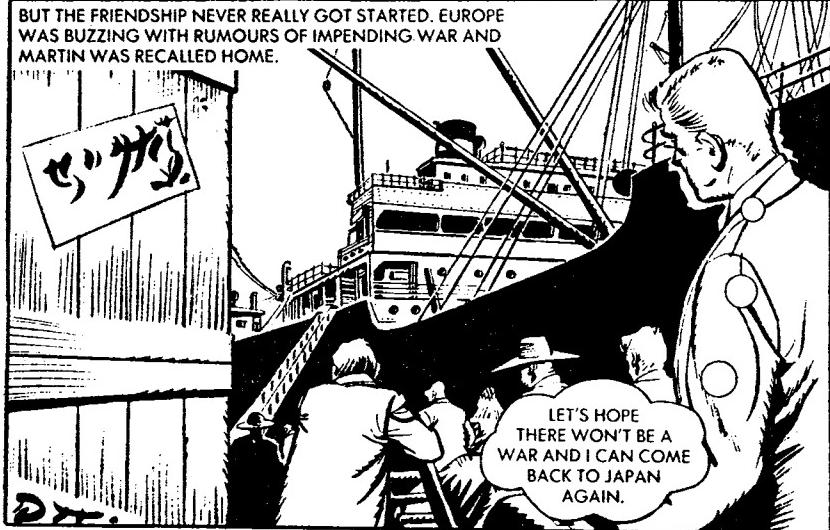




MARTIN DID NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND THE IDEA OF FORTUNE-KARATE WAS JUST A FIRE SPORT. BUT HE COULDN'T HELP BEING EDGARA



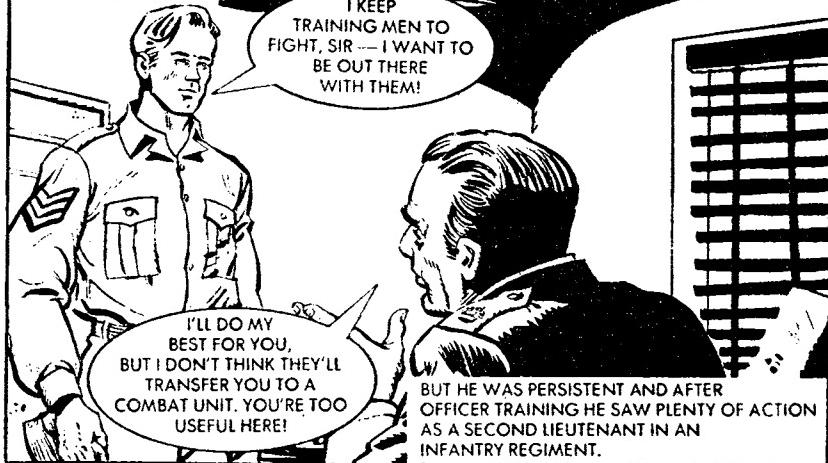
BUT THE FRIENDSHIP NEVER REALLY GOT STARTED. EUROPE
WAS BUZZING WITH RUMOURS OF IMPENDING WAR AND
MARTIN WAS RECALLED HOME.



WHEN WAR WAS DECLARED, MARTIN WAS SOON IN UNIFORM AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE WAS A SERGEANT IN THE ARMY PHYSICAL TRAINING CORPS.



STUCK IN CAMP AS AN INSTRUCTOR, MARTIN DID NOT LOOK LIKE EVER COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE ENEMY, AND IT WAS BEGINNING TO ANNOY HIM. HE TRIED DESPERATELY TO GET INTO ACTION.



AT THE END OF 1941 HE WAS A FULL BRIGADIER AND
WAS IN ENGLAND ON LEAVE WHEN HE STARTED TO
NEWS BROKE THAT JAPAN HAD ENTERED THE WAR ON THE
SIDE OF GERMANY.



MARTIN WAS RIGHT. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE WAS ASKED IF HE'D TAKE A COURSE INVOLVING EXPLOSIVES AND SABOTAGE METHODS.



THE MAJOR ORGANISING THIS SPECIAL UNIT EXPLAINED AS MUCH AS HE COULD.



MARTIN IMMEDIATELY VOLUNTEERED AND PASSED THE SPECIAL COURSE WITH FLYING COLOURS. HE WAS PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN, AND SOON FOUND HIMSELF OUT EAST AGAIN, IN BURMA.



WHEN IT GREW DARK, MARTIN MOVED FORWARD AND CALLED OUT IN JAPANESE TO ONE OF THE GUARDS.

HEY, YOU
THERE! HELP ME,
QUICK!

WHAT'S THAT?
SOMEONE OUT IN THE
JUNGLE? I'D BETTER
INVESTIGATE.

THE LAST PERSON THE JAPANESE SOLDIER EXPECTED TO SEE SO FAR BEHIND HIS OWN LINES WAS A BRITISH OFFICER SPEAKING FLUENT JAPANESE.

SWEET
DREAMS!

BRITISH ...

ALL MARTIN'S KARATE TRAINING HAD STOOD HIM IN GOOD STEAD.

WITH THAT GUARD OUT OF THE WAY, LIKE SHADOWS THE MEN SLIPPED THROUGH THE NIGHT, INTO THE PRECIOUS DEPOT.



NOISELESSLY AND UNSEEN, THEY WENT ABOUT THEIR TASK OF SABOTAGE, PLACING THEIR EXPLOSIVES WHERE THEY WOULD DO MOST DAMAGE.



THEY REACHED THE JUNGLE AGAIN AND RE-GROUPED OUTSIDE THE DEPOT WITH HALF A MINUTE TO SPARE.

THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOVELY FIRE WORK DISPLAY OVER THERE SOON, SIR!

THE JAPS ARE WELCOME TO IT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE FAST!

THEY WOULD HAVE MADE IT, BUT THE GUARD MARTIN HAD KNOCKED OUT WAS OBVIOUSLY A TOUGH CUSTOMER. HE CAME TO AND SPOTTED THE RAIDERS JUST AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO MOVE OFF.

BRITISH SOLDIERS! HALT!

HECK,
THAT'S TORN
IT!

MARTIN AND HIS MEN DIVED FOR COVER AS THE JAP STARTED SHOOTING, BUT THE NOISE BROUGHT OTHER ENEMY GUARDS AT THE RUN.



JUST THEN A SERIES OF TREMENDOUS EXPLOSIONS RIPPED THE DEPOT APART AND IN THE SUDDEN FLOOD OF LIGHT THE BRITISH FORCE COULD BE SEEN CLEARLY.



THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS CLOSED IN AS THE RAIDERS TOOK WHAT COVER THEY COULD

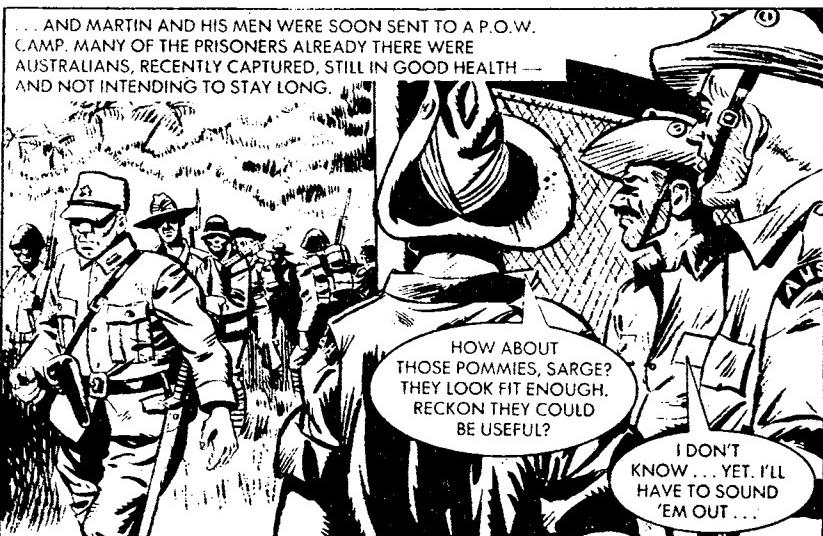


BUT MARTIN AND HIS MEN WERE DETERMINED NOT TO GO QUIETLY AND WHEN THE JAPS SPOTTED THEM, THEY POUNCED



THOUGH THEY FOUGHT BRAVELY, THE SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS MEANT THAT THEY WERE ALL EVENTUALLY OVERPOWERED.





SERGEANT JON JOHNSTON, THE AUSSIES' UNOFFICIAL LEADER, WAS PLANNING A BREAKOUT. HE SOON REALISED THAT THE HIGHLY TRAINED BRITISH SOLDIERS COULD BE USEFUL. HE TALKED TO CORPORAL BROWN ABOUT HIS PLANS FIRST.



MARTIN WAS WALKING ACROSS THE COMPOUND AT THAT MOMENT, AND HE STOPPED SUDDENLY IN SHOCKED SURPRISE AS HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH A FAMILIAR FIGURE, NOW IN THE UNIFORM OF A JAPANESE ARMY LIEUTENANT.



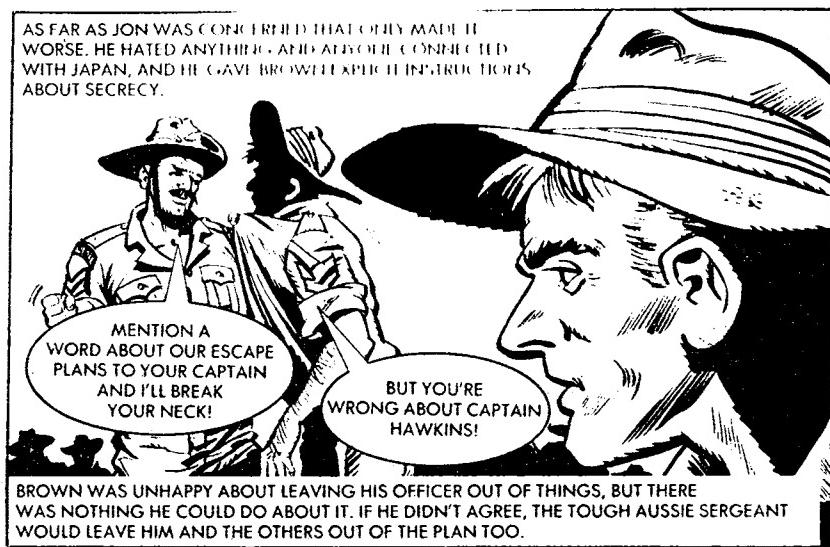
MARTIN AND NAGARA CHATTED IN JAPANESE, NOT NOTICING THE FUNNY LOOKS THEY GOT FROM SOME OF THE OTHER PRISONERS . . .



BUT JON WAS ALSO WATCHING MARTIN, AND HE DIDN'T LIKE WHAT HE SAW.

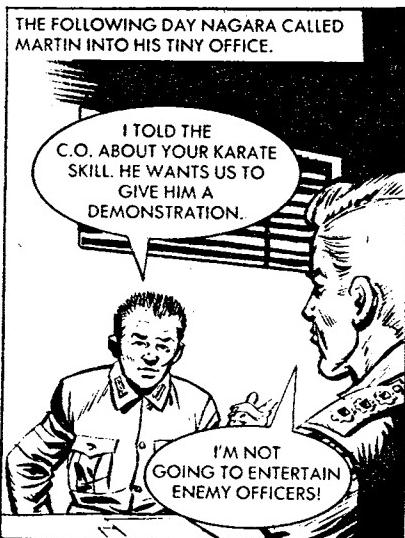


AS FAR AS JON WAS CONCERNED THAT ONLY MADE IT WORSE. HE HATED ANYTHING AND ANYONE CONNECTED WITH JAPAN, AND HE GAVE BROWNE XPICIE INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT SECRECY.

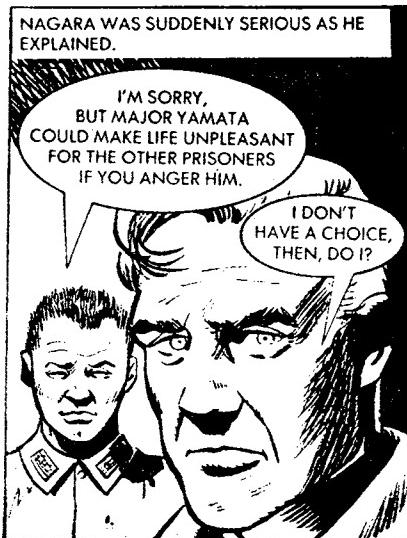


BROWN WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT LEAVING HIS OFFICER OUT OF THINGS, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO ABOUT IT. IF HE DIDN'T AGREE, THE TOUGH AUSSIE SERGEANT WOULD LEAVE HIM AND THE OTHERS OUT OF THE PLAN TOO.

THE FOLLOWING DAY NAGARA CALLED MARTIN INTO HIS TINY OFFICE.



NAGARA WAS SUDDENLY SERIOUS AS HE EXPLAINED.



MARTIN TOLD HIS MEN ABOUT THE COMING KARATE MATCH, AND BROWN REPORTED TO JON. THE SERGEANT GRINNED AS HE REALISED WHAT THIS MEANT.



TOMORROW EVENING,
EH? SINCE THAT'S WHEN
WE'RE ESCAPING, YOUR CAPTAIN
COULDN'T HAVE COME
WITH US ANYWAY.

THAT'S
TRUE ...

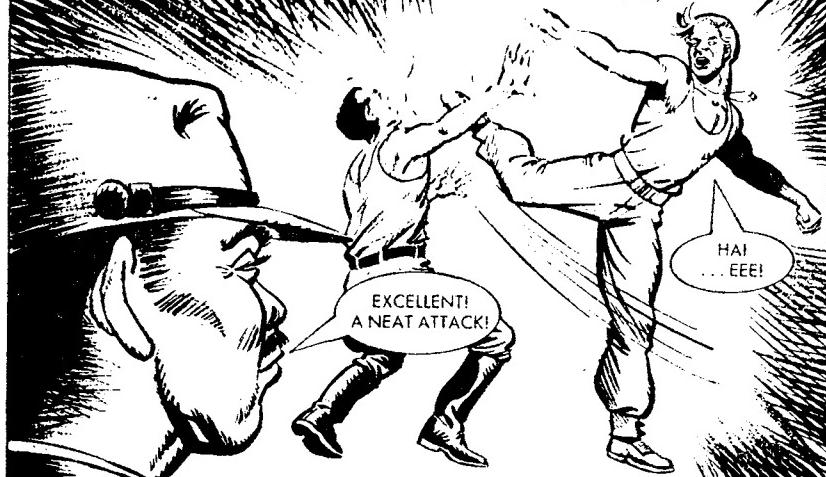
THE CORPORAL AND THE OTHER MEN WERE ALMOST PLEASED THAT THINGS HAD WORKED OUT THIS WAY. THEY HAD FELT REALLY BAD ABOUT LEAVING MARTIN OUT OF THE ESCAPE PLANS.

THE FOLLOWING EVENING, MARTIN WAS TAKEN TO YAMATA'S PRIVATE QUARTERS WHERE HE AND NAGARA WERE TO GIVE THEIR DEMONSTRATION.



NOW, LET'S
SEE HOW GOOD YOU
ARE AT OUR MARTIAL
SPORTS, CAPTAIN
HAWKINS!

MARTIN AND NAGARA PUT UP A GOOD SHOW AND MAJOR YAMATA, THE SOLE SPECTATOR, BECAME ENTHRALLED WITH THE CONTEST.



THE TWO BLACK-BELTS STEPPED BACK FOR A MOMENT, PAUSING BEFORE CONTINUING THE MATCH. THEN ALL IN THE ROOM LOOKED STARTLED AS A WARNING BELL SOUNDED FROM OUTSIDE.



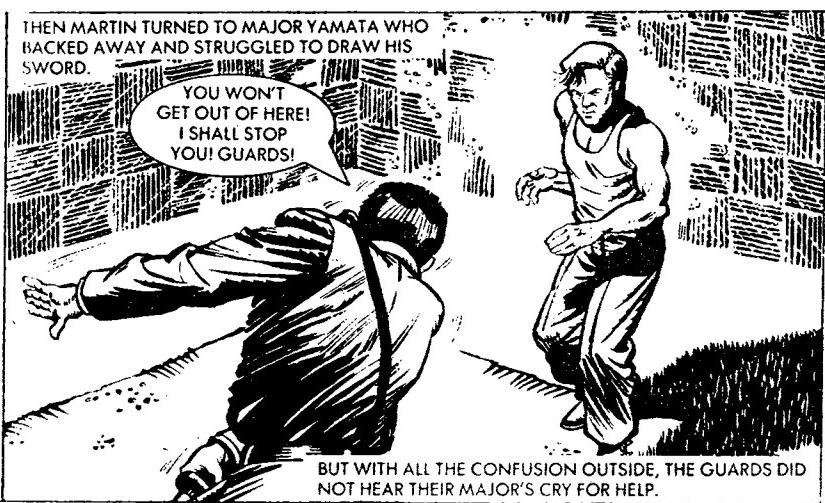
NAGARA TURNED AWAY FROM MARTIN. AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED THE BOUT WAS OVER. MARTIN SEIZED HIS CHANCE AND STRUCK OUT.



THE JAP, CAUGHT COMPLETELY UNAWARES,
SLUMPED UNCONSCIOUS TO THE GROUND.

THEN MARTIN TURNED TO MAJOR YAMATA WHO BACKED AWAY AND STRUGGLED TO DRAW HIS SWORD.

YOU WON'T
GET OUT OF HERE!
I SHALL STOP
YOU! GUARDS!



BUT WITH ALL THE CONFUSION OUTSIDE, THE GUARDS DID NOT HEAR THEIR MAJOR'S CRY FOR HELP.

THE MAJOR WAS NO MARTIAL ARTS EXPERT AND HE WAS SWIFTLY DEALT WITH.



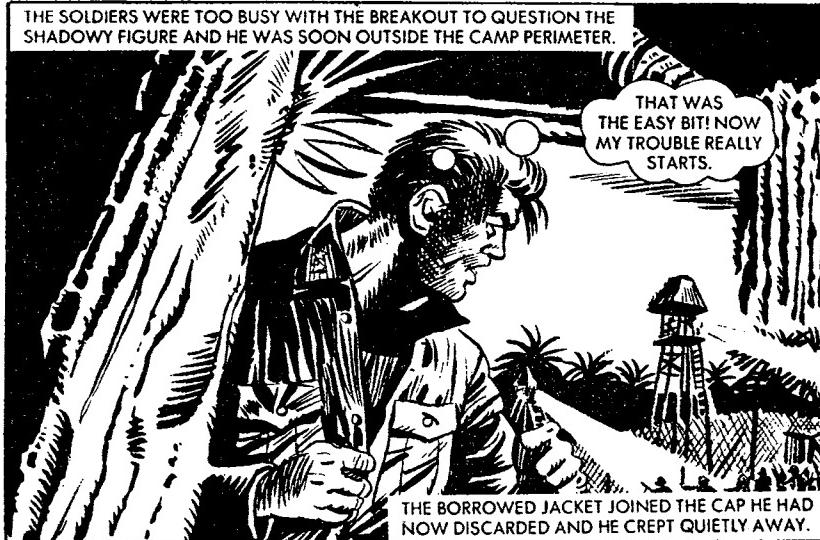
MARTIN TURNED TO NAGARA'S UNIFORM



NOW DISGUISED, HE CLIMBED THROUGH A WINDOW INTO THE JAPANESE PART OF THE CAMP. THE SHADOWS AND HIS BORROWED UNIFORM HELPED TO CAMOUFLAGE HIM.



THE SOLDIERS WERE TOO BUSY WITH THE BREAKOUT TO QUESTION THE SHADY FIGURE AND HE WAS SOON OUTSIDE THE CAMP PERIMETER.



THAT WAS
THE EASY BIT! NOW
MY TROUBLE REALLY
STARTS.

THE BORROWED JACKET JOINED THE CAP HE HAD
NOW DISCARDED AND HE CREPT QUIETLY AWAY.

MARTIN PUSHED HIS WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLE. IT WAS
HEAVY GOING AND HIS PROGRESS WAS SLOW.



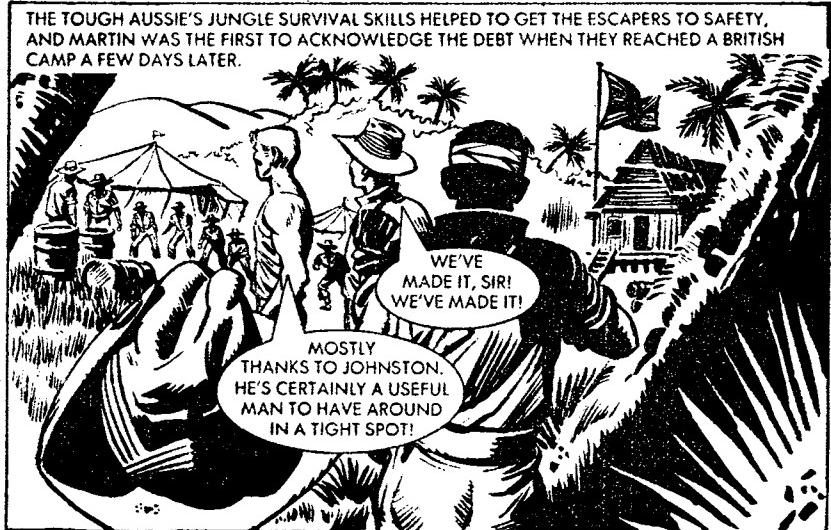
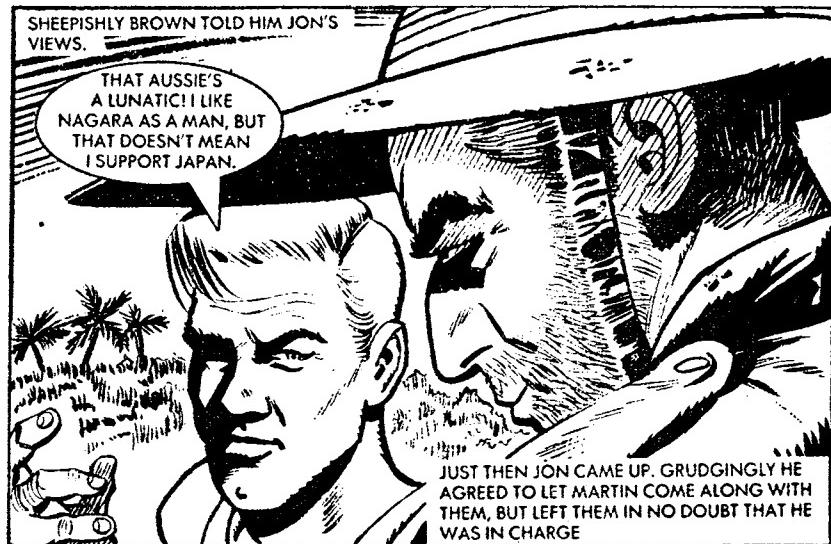
WHAT WOULDN'T
I GIVE FOR A MACHETE!
HALLO, SOUNDS LIKE
SOMETHING MOVING
UP AHEAD.

THINKING THAT IT MIGHT BE JAPS, HE TOOK COVER, BUT TO HIS AMAZEMENT MARTIN SAW FAMILIAR FACES AMONG THE NEWCOMERS.



JON WASN'T ALL THAT PLEASED TO SEE MARTIN, WHO WAS ANGRY ABOUT BEING LEFT OUT OF THE ESCAPE PLANS. SLIGHTLY ASHAMED, BROWN EXPLAINED.





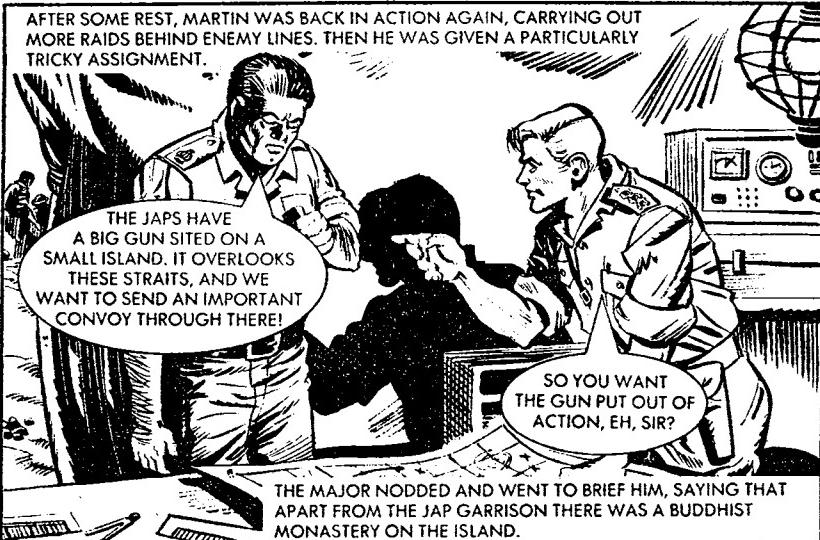
THOUGH MARTIN AND HIS MEN WERE SAFE, NAGARA HAD HAD TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF MAJOR YAMATA'S ANGER.



YAMATA WANTED A SCAPEGOAT FOR HIS OWN FAILURE, AND IT SEEMED THAT NAGARA WAS TO CARRY ALL THE BLAME FOR THE PRISONERS.



AFTER SOME REST, MARTIN WAS BACK IN ACTION AGAIN, CARRYING OUT MORE RAIDS BEHIND ENEMY LINES. THEN HE WAS GIVEN A PARTICULARLY TRICKY ASSIGNMENT.



THE JAPS HAVE
A BIG GUN SITED ON A
SMALL ISLAND. IT OVERLOOKS
THESE STRAITS, AND WE
WANT TO SEND AN IMPORTANT
CONVOY THROUGH THERE!

SO YOU WANT
THE GUN PUT OUT OF
ACTION, EH, SIR?

THE MAJOR NODDED AND WENT TO BRIEF HIM, SAYING THAT APART FROM THE JAP GARRISON THERE WAS A BUDDHIST MONASTERY ON THE ISLAND.

THE MAJOR FINISHED THE BRIEFING.



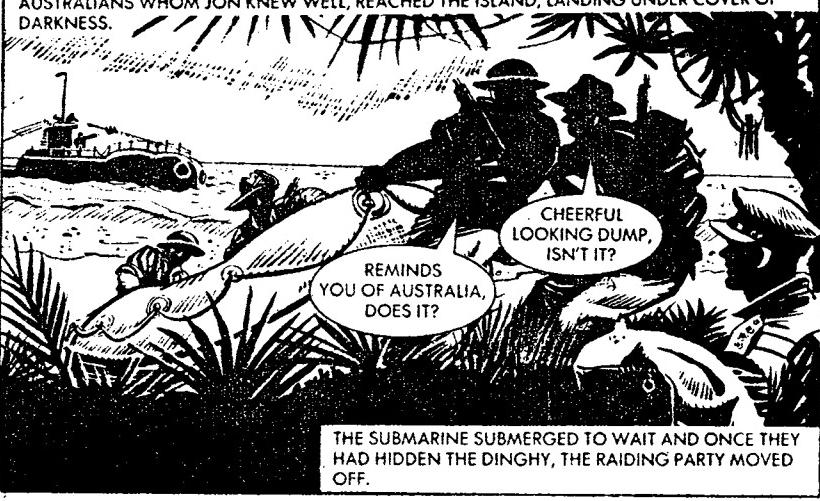
TAKE YOU OUT AND
BRING YOU BACK, BUT YOU'D
BETTER BE THERE OR IT WON'T
WAIT. YOU CAN CHOOSE
YOUR OWN TEAM.

THEN I'D
LIKE THAT AUSSIE,
SERGEANT JOHNSTON, AS MY
N.C.O., IF HE'LL COME.

THE AUSTRALIANS WERE BASED NEARBY AND JON WAS VERY SURPRISED WHEN HE RECEIVED A VISIT FROM MARTIN. MARTIN TOLD HIM BLUNTLY WHY HE WANTED HIM.



SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, MARTIN, JON AND FOUR HAND-PICKED MEN, TWO OF THEM AUSTRALIANS WHOM JON KNEW WELL, REACHED THE ISLAND, LANDING UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS.



MARTIN'S MAP TOLD HIM EVERYTHING HE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ISLAND, EXCEPT ONE THING—THE NEW SECOND IN COMMAND OF THE GUN SITE WAS LIEUTENANT NAGARA WHO WAS ON PATROL THAT NIGHT.



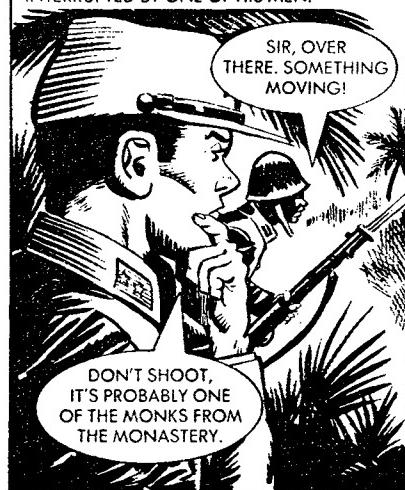
MY FRIENDS
SAVED ME FROM TOTAL
DISGRACE BY GETTING ME
THIS POSTING. AT LEAST MY
PARENTS CAN SAY THAT I AM
STILL IN UNIFORM AND
SERVING THE EMPEROR.

NAGARA HAD FRIENDS IN THE HIGH PLACES
WHO ADMIRED HIS KARATE SKILLS, AND
WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO HELP HIM.



OUT HERE I'M
NOT LIKELY TO HAVE
TO HARM ANYONE. I
CAN STILL BE TRUE
TO MY BELIEFS.

THEN HIS THOUGHTS WERE RUDELY
INTERRUPTED BY ONE OF HIS MEN.



DON'T SHOOT,
IT'S PROBABLY ONE
OF THE MONKS FROM
THE MONASTERY.

SIR, OVER
THERE. SOMETHING
MOVING!

THE MONKS WANDERED ABOUT ALL OVER THE ISLAND AND THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS WERE USED TO THEM. BUT THE FIGURES THAT NAGARA SAW WERE NOT WEARING THE TRADITIONAL ROBES.



... AND AS THEY RAN A HAIL OF BULLETS FLEW THROUGH THE NIGHT AFTER THEM.



BUT NAGARA DID NOT INTEND TO BE THROWN OFF THE TRAIL AND A HOT PURSUIT FOLLOWED WHICH LED THE BRITISH TO THE VERY WALLS OF THE BUDDHIST MONASTERY.

THEY'RE STILL
BEHIND US - IF THEY
WANT A FIGHT I THINK
WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE
'EM ONE!

I RECKON
WE SHOULD DITCH
OUR EXPLOSIVES FOR NOW,
SIR. THEY'RE TOO UNPREDICTABLE.
WE CAN PICK 'EM
UP AGAIN LATER.

MARTIN AGREED. EXPLOSIVES WERE DANGEROUS
THINGS TO CARRY AROUND IN A BATTLE SO THEY
WERE SWIFTLY HIDDEN IN A CAVITY IN THE
CRUMBLING WALL.

JUST THEN THE JAPS ARRIVED, AND AS THE FIGHT DEVELOPED, MARTIN REALISED THAT THE SITUATION WAS SERIOUS, FOR THEY WERE SURROUNDED AND OUTNUMBERED.

IT'S NO
GOOD, THERE'S TOO
MANY.

AAAARGH.

THEY'VE GOT
WILLIAMS, BUT I CAN
SEE THE LITTLE YELLOW
MONKEY WHO
DID IT!

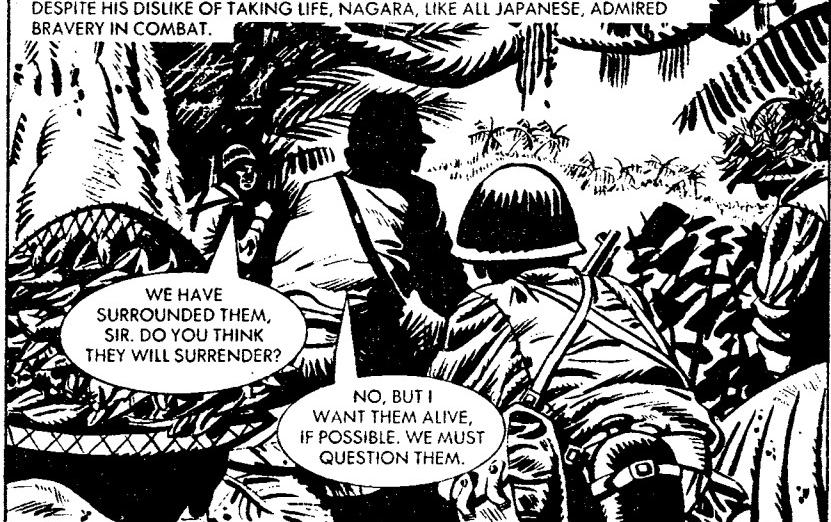
THE AUSTRALIAN'S STEN GUN CHATTERED.



BUT THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS CLOSED IN. ANOTHER OF MARTIN'S MEN WAS HIT.



DESPITE HIS DISLIKE OF TAKING LIFE, NAGARA, LIKE ALL JAPANESE, ADMired BRAVERY IN COMBAT.





THE BRITISH FIRED AT POINT-BLANK RANGE, DOWNING TWO OF THE ENEMY.



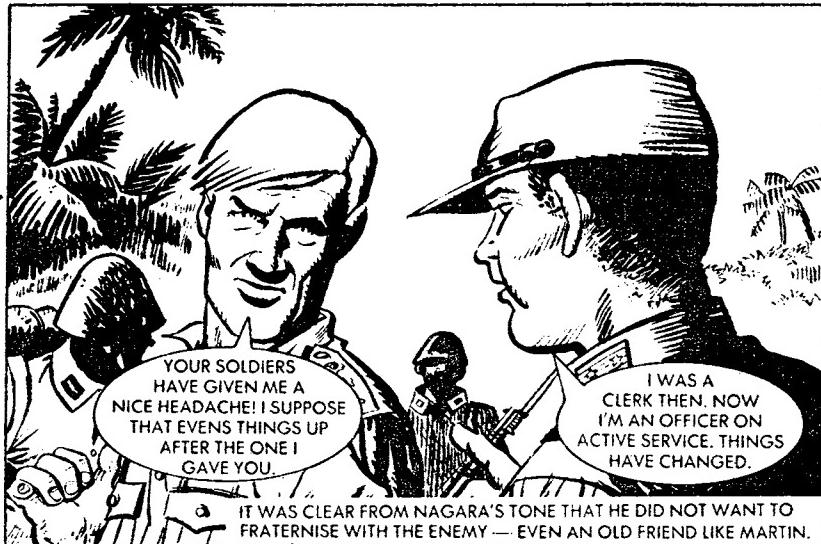
WHEN THE JAPS WERE CLOSE ENOUGH, FIERCE HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT RAGED. MARTIN, WITH HIS KARATE SKILLS, PROVED HE WOULDN'T BE EASY TO CAPTURE.





JON WAS ALSO OVERPOWERED BY SHEER WEIGHT OF NUMBERS BUT THE OTHER TWO SURVIVORS HAD MADE IT TO SAFETY, AS NAGARA WAS SOON INFORMED.





THEN THE MAJOR SUDDENLY SCREAMED WITH RAGE, LOSING HIS TEMPER COMPLETELY.



TAMOTO WAS WORRIED THAT THE TWO MEN WHO ESCAPED MIGHT ATTACK THE GUN.

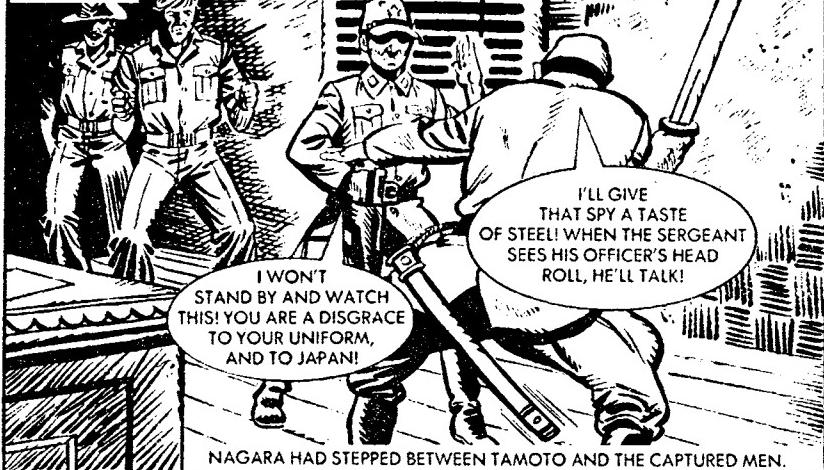


WHEN HE HEARD THAT, TAMOTO SMILED UNPLEASANTLY.





THE JAPANESE MAJOR LURCHED FORWARD, PULLING HIS LONG-BLADED CEREMONIAL SWORD FROM ITS SCABBARD AS HE MOVED TOWARDS THE PRISONERS.



THE MAJOR LAUGHED INSANELY AS HE MENACINGLY WAVED HIS SWORD.



NAGARA, IN POSITION BETWEEN JON AND MARTIN AND THE SWORD-SWINGING MAJOR, SEEMED READY TO DEFEND THEM FROM THIS INSANE SLAUGHTER.



MARTIN WAS RIGHT. ONCE TAMOTO WAS IN RANGE, NAGARA STRUCK SWIFTLY.



THEN AN EXPERT KARATE PUNCH LAID THE MAJOR OUT.



BUT IT WAS SOON CLEAR THAT NAGARA DID NOT INTEND TO LET JON AND MARTIN GO. HE SPOKE IN ENGLISH TO THEM.



JON WAS NO SLOUCH AT UNARMED COMBAT HIMSELF. HE MOVED WITH LIGHTNING SPEED AND CAUGHT NAGARA BY SURPRISE.



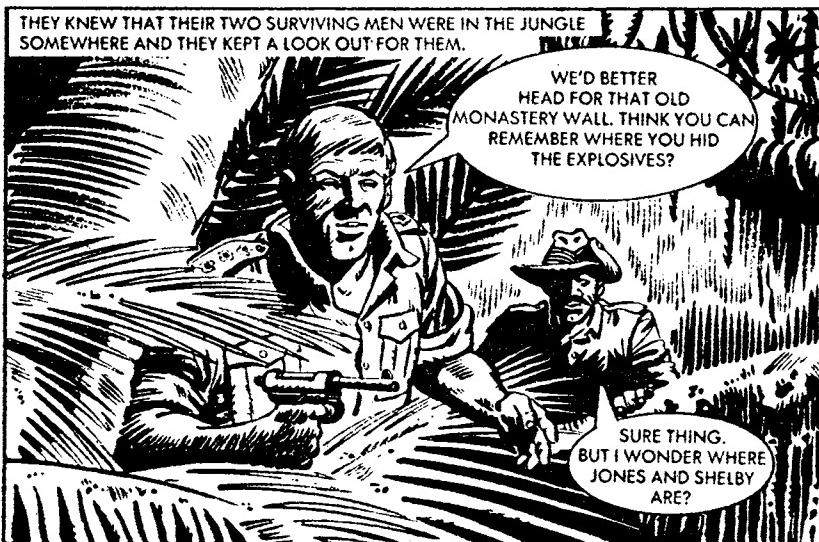
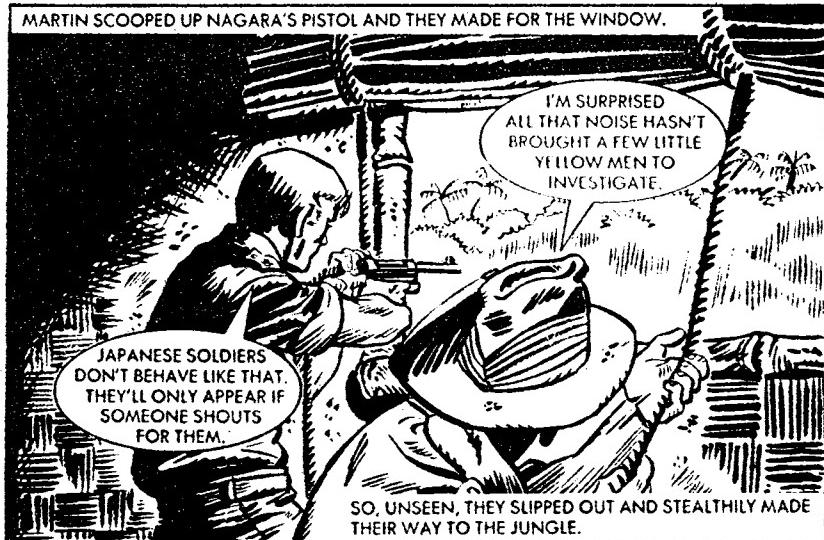
MARTIN MOVED AT THE SAME TIME, AND AS NAGARA THREW JOHN, HE DIDN'T SEE THE ENGLISHMAN COME ROUND BEHIND HIM AND DELIVER AN EXPERT KARATE CHOP.

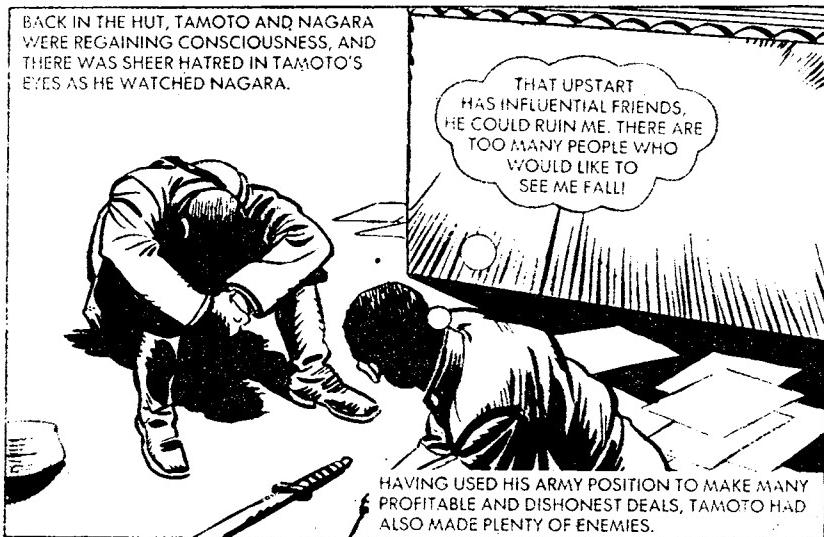
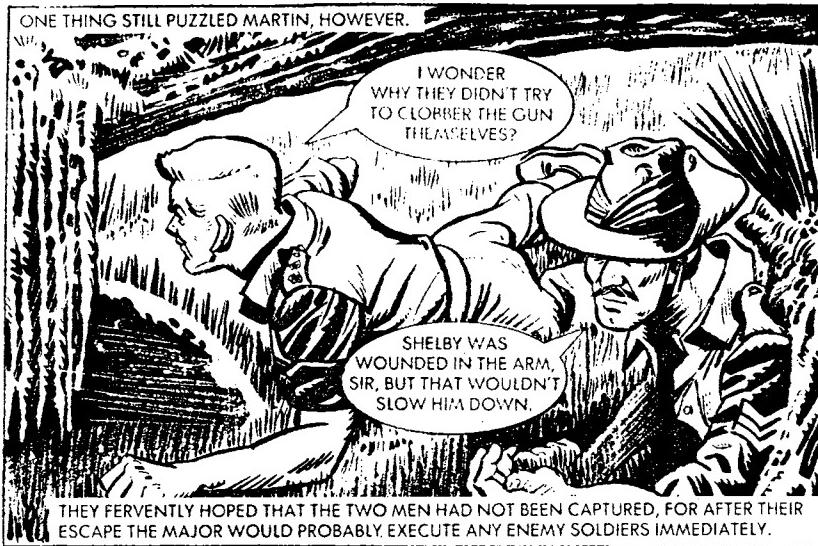


NAGARA SLUMPED UNCONSCIOUS TO THE FLOOR, AND JON REALISED THAT HE FELT A BIT SORRY FOR THE JAPANESE OFFICER.



MARTIN SCOOPED UP NAGARA'S PISTOL AND THEY MADE FOR THE WINDOW.





BUT HE DISGUISED HIS FEELINGS WELL AND EVEN HELPED THE YOUNG OFFICER TO HIS FEET.



TAMOTO'S SMILE TURNED INTO A SNEER AS NAGARA LEFT THE HUT ...

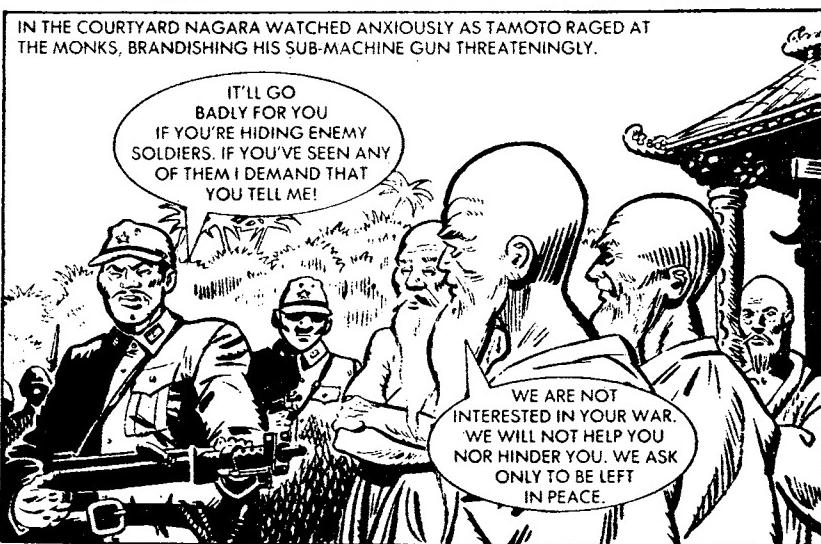


MEANWHILE MARTIN AND JON HAD MADE THEIR WAY BACK TO THE WALL ROUND THE MONASTERY.





IN THE COURTYARD NAGARA WATCHED ANXIOUSLY AS TAMOTO RAGED AT THE MONKS, BRANDISHING HIS SUB-MACHINE GUN THREATENINGLY.



THE CALM REPLY INFURIATED TAMOTO WHO WAS SOON IN THE GRIP OF ONE OF HIS MAD RAGES.

YOU OLD FOOL, YOU'RE LYING!
MAYBE AN EXECUTION
WILL JOG SOMEONE'S MEMORY!

HE'S INSANE!
HE MEANS IT . . . HE'LL
SHOOT THEM ALL!

NAGARA WAS CLEARLY WORRIED BY THE SITUATION.

BEHIND THE WALL, MARTIN TRANSLATED FOR JON. THOUGH NEITHER OF THE TWO MEN WANTED TO SEE INNOCENT MONKS MURDERED THERE WAS NOTHING THEY COULD DO.

THAT JAPS
A MANIAC, SIR! THOSE
OLD BOYS ARE
HARMLESS.

THAT'S TRUE,
BUT WE CAN'T GIVE
OURSELVES UP TO SAVE
THEM. WE MUST DESTROY
THE GUN. HUNDREDS OF
LIVES DEPEND
ON US.

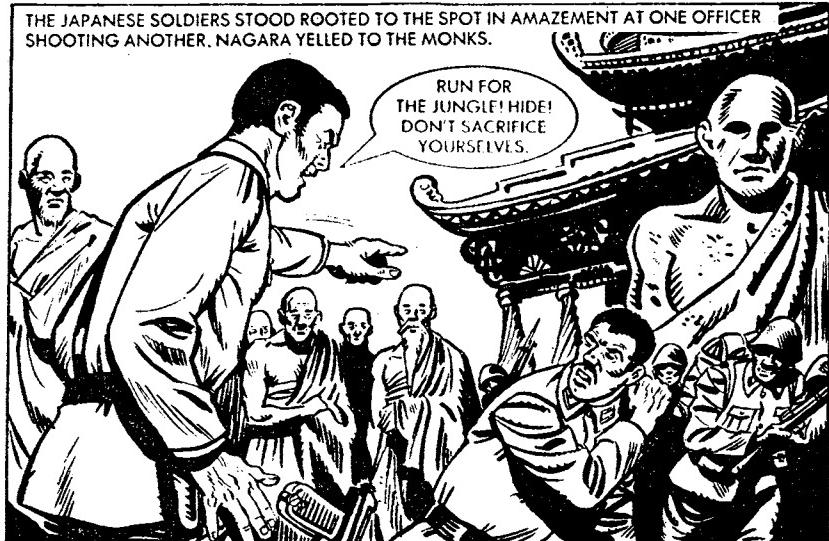
THEN NAGARA MOVED. HE TURNED SWIFTLY AND HELD HIS PISTOL IN A STEADY AIM AT THE MAD MAJOR.



AS TAMOTO TURNED AND RAISED HIS SUB-MACHINE GUN, NAGARA FIRED.



THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS STOOD ROOTED TO THE SPOT IN AMAZEMENT AT ONE OFFICER SHOOTING ANOTHER. NAGARA YELLED TO THE MONKS.



WHEN NAGARA AND THE MONKS FLED, MARTIN AND JON WERE AS SURPRISED AS THE JAPANESE.



NAGARA'S CONVICTIONS HAD STOPPED HIM FROM KILLING TAMOTO. AND AS HE AND THE MONKS MADE OFF, THE MAJOR STRUGGLED TO HIS FEET AND YELLED AT THE STUNNED SOLDIERS.



THIS DIVERSION WAS JUST WHAT JON AND MARTIN NEEDED.



AS THEY MOVED ALONG BY THE WALL, THE TWO MISSING RAIDERS APPROACHED FROM WHERE THEY HAD BEEN HIDING IN COVER.



WHEN MARTIN QUESTIONED THE TWO MEN ABOUT WHY THEY HAD DONE NOTHING HE RECEIVED A SHOCK.

WHAT'RE YOU SITTING ROUND HERE FOR? WHY DIDN'T YOU CLOBBER THAT GUN?

WHAT WITH, SIR? WE COULDN'T FIND THE EXPLOSIVES.

JON COULDN'T BELIEVE IT AND SHOUTED ANGRILY AT THEM.

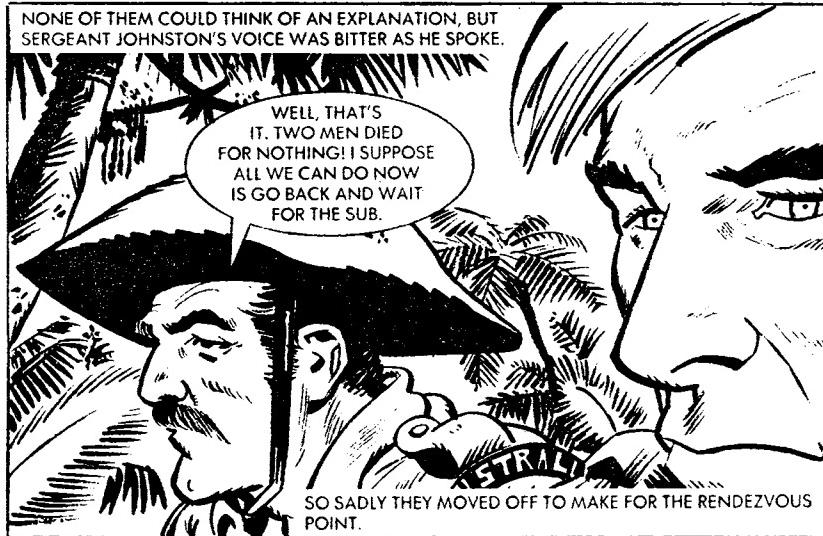
YOU KNOW WHERE I HID THE STUFF. YOU'VE HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO SEARCH ALONG THIS WALL.

WE FOUND THE PLACE, SARGE, BUT THE EXPLOSIVES AREN'T THERE ANY MORE! YOU GO AND LOOK.

MOVING CAREFULLY ALONG THE WALL, THEY REACHED THE PLACE WHERE JON HAD HIDDEN THE VITAL EXPLOSIVES AND DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD INDEED DISAPPEARED.



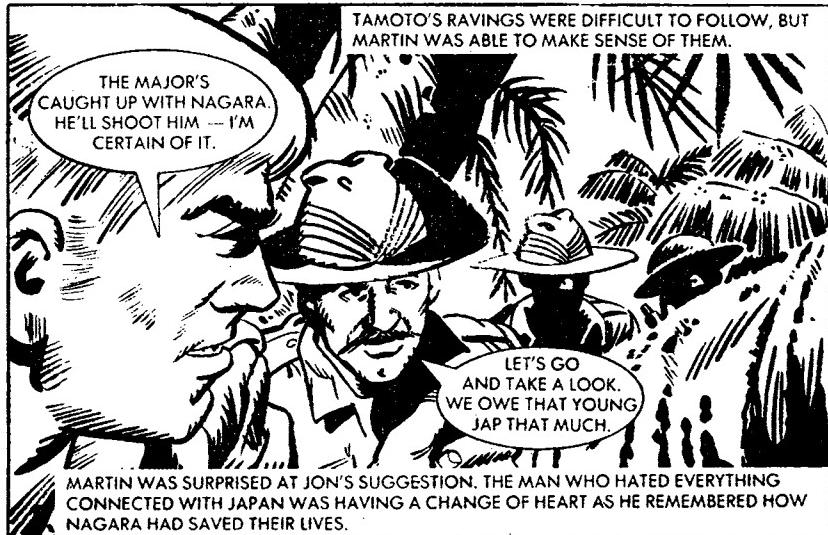
NONE OF THEM COULD THINK OF AN EXPLANATION, BUT SERGEANT JOHNSTON'S VOICE WAS BITTER AS HE SPOKE.



BUT ON THEIR WAY TO THE BEACH, AS THEY SKIRTED THE GUN POSITION, THEY HEARD EXCITED SHOUTING IN JAPANESE.



TAMOTO'S RAVINGS WERE DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW, BUT MARTIN WAS ABLE TO MAKE SENSE OF THEM.



CAUTIOUSLY THEY MOVED FORWARD, AND STOPPED AS THEY SAW THE JAPS.



AS THEY WATCHED, MAJOR TAMOTO STAGGERED FORWARD, HIS FACE TWISTED WITH TRIUMPH. HE YELLED AT HIS SOLDIERS AS HE RAISED HIS SUB-MACHINE GUN.



THINGS HAD WORKED IN TAMOTO'S FAVOUR. NAGARA HAD ATTACKED HIM IN FRONT OF WITNESSES.



BUT THE MAJOR WAS WEAK FROM LOSS OF BLOOD. AS HE FIRED HE STAGGERED, AND IT SPOILT HIS AIM.



BULLETS SPRAYED WILDLY FROM TAMOTO'S SUB-MACHINE GUN. AND THEN THE NIGHT WAS RENT BY TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION AS THE GUN BLEW UP.



MAJOR TAMOTO, BADLY WOUNDED BY FLYING DEBRIS, FELL TO HIS KNEES AND GAPED IN HORROR AT THE SHATTERED GUN.



FROM THEIR COVER THE RAIDING PARTY HAD WATCHED THE BIZARRE SPECTACLE. AMAZED AND DELIGHTED, JON TURNED TO MARTIN.

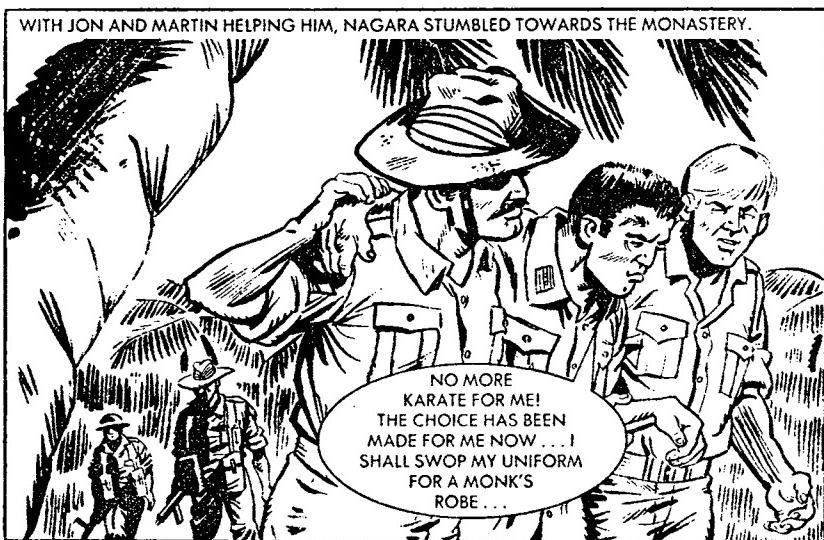
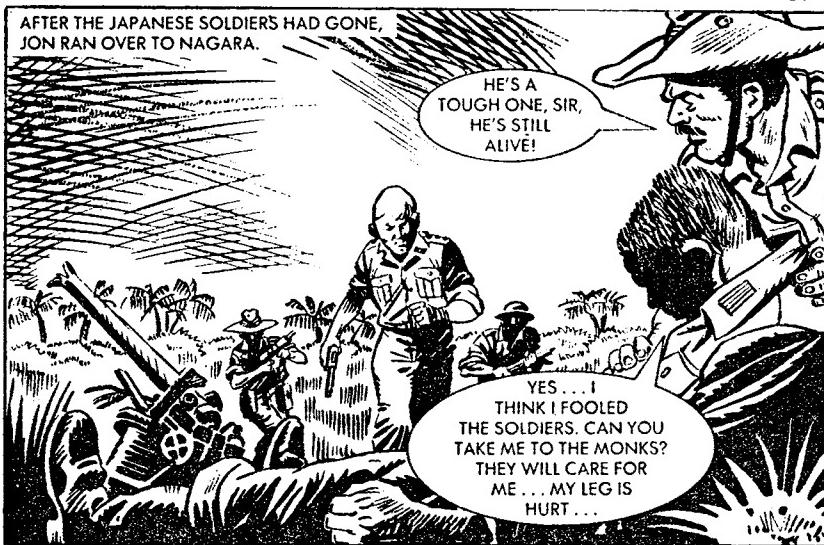


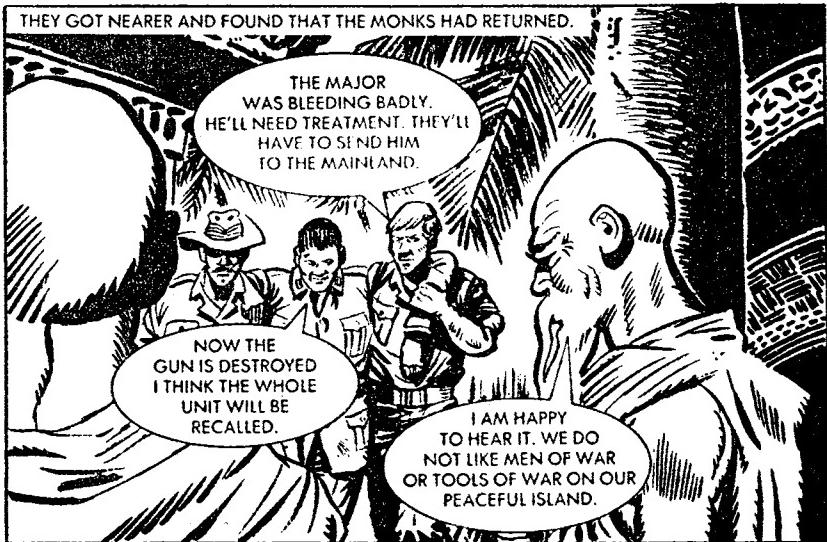
STILL NEITHER MAN COULD BELIEVE
WHAT HAD HAPPENED.



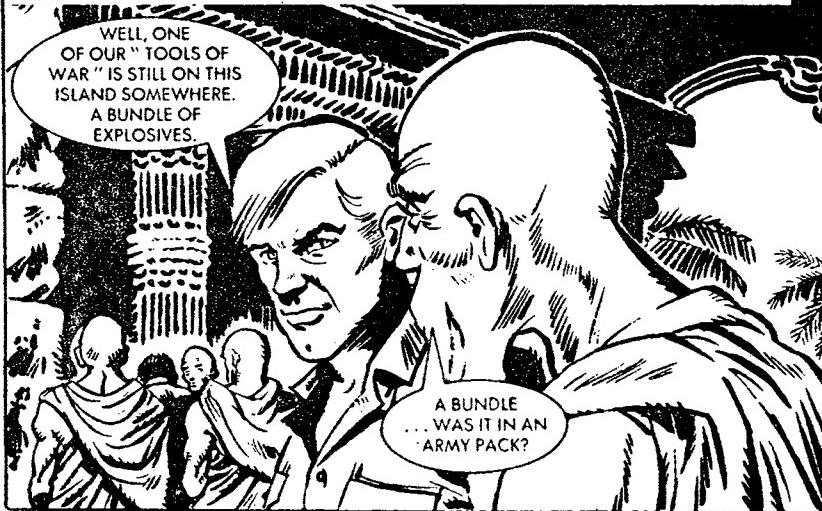
AT THE GUN SITE, THE JAPANESE SOLDIERS THOUGHT SO TOO AS THEY
EXAMINED THE CASUALTIES.







AS THE MONKS BEGAN TO TEND TO NAGARA, MARTIN HAD A WORD WITH ONE OF THEM.



MARTIN NODDED AND STARED IN SURPRISE AS THE MONK EXPLAINED WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

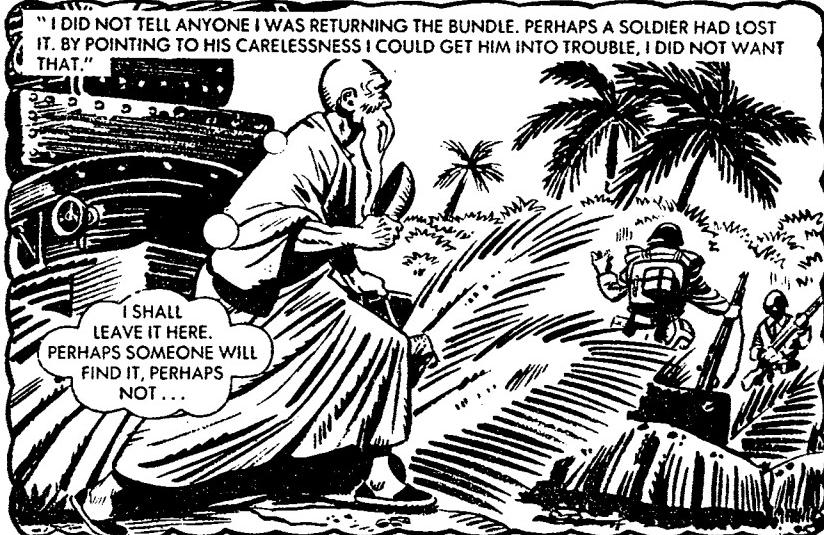
I WAS WALKING BY THE WALL, AND I FOUND JUST SUCH A PACK.

THIS DOES NOT BELONG TO ANY OF MY BROTHERS, IT MUST BELONG TO THE SOLDIERS AT THE GUN SITE.

" I DECIDED TO RETURN THE SOLDIERS' PROPERTY WHEN I WENT TO BEG FOR FOOD. THE SOLDIERS SOMETIMES GAVE US RICE."

GO TO THE COOK. HE'LL FEED YOU.

THANK YOU.



A FAINT SMILE CROSSED THE MONK'S FACE AS HE TURNED AWAY.

I KNOW ABOUT EXPLOSIVES. I WAS ONCE AN ENGINEER AND I KNEW THE EXPLOSIVES WOULD BE SAFE WHERE I PUT THEM.

WELL, I'LL BE! BUT YOU DIDN'T RECKON ON ANYONE FIRING AT THEM.

MARTIN STILL COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

SO WHEN MAJOR TAMOTO FIRED AT NAGARA, HE BLEW UP HIS OWN GUN!

BEFORE THE RAIDERS LEFT FOR THE RENDEZVOUS WITH THE SUB, THEY WENT INTO THE MONASTERY TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO NAGARA.

THE SOLDIERS WILL BE LOST WITHOUT THEIR OFFICERS. THEY WILL BE PLEASED WHEN THE MONKS TELL THEM THEY HAVE BURIED THE DEAD — INCLUDING ME!

AND YOU'LL REMAIN HERE, FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

NAGARA NODDED. HE KNEW NOW THAT WHAT HE WAS DOING WAS RIGHT FOR EVERYONE.

I WILL BE REPORTED KILLED IN ACTION. MY PARENTS WILL BE PROUD OF ME AND SUFFER NO DISGRACE. EVERYTHING HAS WORKED OUT WELL FOR ME.

I'LL VISIT YOU AGAIN, AFTER THE WAR.

SO WILL I. WE ALL HAVE A LOT TO THANK YOU FOR.

AND WITH THAT, THEY LEFT TO MAKE FOR THE BEACH.

THEY REACHED THE RENDEZVOUS POINT WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT AND WHILE THEY WAITED FOR THE SUBMARINE, JON SAID WHAT HAD BEEN ON HIS MIND SINCE THEY HAD LEFT THE MONASTERY.

THAT YOUNG JAP'LL BE A CRIPPLE FOR LIFE, SIR. HE'LL NEVER DO KARATE AGAIN . . . AND YET HE LOOKED AS HAPPY AS A MAN WHO'D WON A FORTUNE. WHY?

HE'S FOUND WHAT HE'S BEEN SEARCHING FOR, SERGEANT. HE'S AT PEACE WITH HIMSELF.

AND AS THE SUBMARINE SURFACED TO PICK THEM UP,
MARTIN ECHOED THE THOUGHTS WHICH EVERYONE HELD.



LET'S HOPE
THE WORLD WILL BE
AT PEACE, TOO, JON,
VERY SOON. COME
ON, LET'S GO!

BUT FOR MARTIN AND JON, THERE WAS
TO BE MORE FIGHTING UNTIL THE WAR
WAS EVENTUALLY WON.

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THE END

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Stars of Darts—Cliff Lazarenko

WAY OF HONOUR

BEFORE the Second World War few westerners had ever heard of the Japanese sport of karate, with its own rules, its own customs. But one young Englishman, Martin Hawkins, studied it when he lived and worked in Japan. So skilled was he that it wasn't long before he was a black belt champion.

Then war broke out and Martin was forced to return home, little knowing that his expertise in karate was going to save his life one day.

Commando

